

The Pietenpol P³ Catalyst Awards (Practice-Changing, Paradigm-Shifting, Policy-Creating)

The Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center (VICC) announces a funding opportunity to support impactful cancer-related projects at any stage of research (i.e., pilot projects, need for translation, etc.) from any stage faculty member. The goal of this award is to provide funding to support paradigm-shifting, practice-changing, or policy-creating research, named for the former VICC Director, Jennifer Pietenpol, PhD, who challenged investigators with these inspirational goals to drive exceptional research, clinical care, and support for our patients.

Both single PI and collaborative project proposals are eligible for an annual award of \$50,000 (direct costs). The application and evaluation process will be in two stages. First, applicants will submit a one-page letter of intent (LOI) that contains the Title, Background, Hypothesis, Specific Aims (including the Approach), and a brief paragraph regarding cancer relevance to the “P³”. Top candidates from the LOIs submitted will be invited to a “Shark Tank” style in person/hybrid meeting to provide a five-minute presentation of their work followed by a five-minute question and answer session. Projects will be evaluated and voted upon at the end of this meeting, with awardees notified shortly thereafter. Lay audience members who helped raise philanthropic funds to support this funding will also be invited to participate and vote.

Eligibility Criteria

- All VICC members, including faculty from Vanderbilt University, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Meharry Medical College and Tennessee State University, are eligible to apply. Non-VICC members can also apply but should identify a VICC member as a collaborator/consultant/Col/CoPI. Early career investigators, including Instructors and Research Assistant or Research Associate Professors, are also eligible but must have a senior (Associate Professor or Professor) mentor named as part of the research team.
- Research can be focused in any area of cancer research
- Proposals should focus on **Practice-Changing, Paradigm-Shifting, Policy-Creating** cancer research

Selection Process

1. Submission:

- A one-page Letter of Intent (LOI) using 11-point, Arial font, including Title, Background, Hypothesis, Specific Aims (including the Approach) and a short, lay statement describing how the research is cancer-relevant and addresses at least one of the “P³”.
- NIH biosketches for all key personnel

2. LOI Review:

- A peer-reviewed panel will evaluate submitted LOIs and select finalists based on impact and scientific merit

3. Presentation:

- Proposals deemed as finalists will provide a brief, five-minute “Shark Tank” style pitch presentation to the review committee inclusive of a zoom lay audience, followed by a five-minute Q and A session.
- Reviewers will focus on significance and impact, defined as **Practice-Changing, Paradigm-Shifting, Policy-Creating** cancer research

Deliverable Requirements of Awardees

- Budget and justification, if awarded funding, will be solicited prior to the awardee(s) receiving of funds
- A final written progress report, including financial reporting, will be required at the end of the funding period



VANDERBILT-INGRAM CANCER CENTER

All applications are due October 17, 2022. To submit your application electronically, please submit a single PDF containing all documentation through the [VICC Pilot Project Application Portal](#). A link to the VICC Pilot Project Application Portal can also be found at the top right-hand corner of the VICC Funding Opportunities web page (<http://www.vicc.org/research/funding/>). In the VICC Pilot Project Application Portal, please select “Other” from the dropdown options, and specify the program title as “Pietenpol P3.” Finalists will be notified in November 2022, with presentations scheduled thereafter.

If you have further questions or comments, please contact Jenn Beiner (jenn.beiner@vumc.org)